



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Uma Ahluwalia
Director

COMMISSION ON JUVENILE JUSTICE
Meeting Minutes
July 21, 2015

CITIZEN MEMBERS PRESENT: Shehzad Akhtar, Maria Blaeuer, Carole Brown, Bonnie DeWitt, Chris Fogleman (Vice-Chair), Karen Francis, Michael Gruenberg, Stacey Gurian – Sherman, Barbara Holtz, Mehul Madia, Julie Malloy, Jessica Markham, Perry Paylor, Roberta (Birdie) Pieczenik, Carlean Ponder (Chair) , Wendy Pulliam, Jessa Wilcox and Tisha Wiley.

AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT: Francha Davis, Frank Duncan, Susan Farag, Risa Mainprize, George Simms, Michael Subin, Jenny West-Porter and Elijah Wheeler.

ABSENT MEMBERS: Linda Currie, Barbara Holtz, Mehul Madia, Dana Pisanelli, and Mary Siegfried and Ira Thomas,

STAFF LIAISON PRESENT: Diane Lininger

GUESTS: Karyn Gross, Margi Josh and Mara Parker.

Commission on Juvenile Justice

7300 Calhoun Place, Suite 600, Rockville, Maryland 20855 • 240-777-3317 • 240-777-4447
facsimile

I. **Announcements –**

- A. Welcome to our nine new members; Maria Blauer, Jessa Wilcox, Karen Francis, Jessica Markham, Bonnie Dewitt, Erynn Penn, Stacey Gurian-Sherman, Tisha Wiley and Shehzad Akhtar. We have re-instated the buddy plan for new members. All new members and their buddies will receive each others email addresses. I will send them each an email tomorrow so that they may contact each other.
- B. Attached meeting dates for FY-16
- C. Sign up sheet to write articles for annual report due in October
- D. Sign up sheet to take minutes
- E. Minutes from the Executive committee meeting attached
- F. No Meeting in August – Next meeting is on September 15, 2015

II. **Old Business** - June 2015 minutes approved with edits.

III. **New Business-**

- A. Carole Brown liaison with the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council reported from the most recent meeting that there was a briefing from Mental Health Core task force briefing post Ferguson, Short briefing from Raymond Crowel regarding diversion from the police for mentally ill people who are arrested. They are presently looking at mental health courts and how they can divert mentally ill people who are picked up for violations and they are working on how they can get them services/hospitalized instead.
- B. Work-plan – committee chairs present specific goals on their work-plan for FY-16. Care, Custody and Placement committee Co-Chair Birdie Pieczenik reported that they are working on prevention of kids to juvenile services, vocational programs and how they can get access to programs. Karyn Gross who was a guest at the meeting and is the educational liaison with DJS reported that she had met with the new principle at Thomas Edison HS and they will now relax the rules of entry for youth allowing them to have a grade level below a “C”. Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit guest Margi Josh reported that they have been doing a study on the Maryland State Department of Education programs at the Juvenile facilities and will email it to Diane to email out to the whole group, when it is completed. Diane was asked to email out the website for the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) which has a ton of data regarding youth involved with DJS.

- C. Government and Community Relations Committee member Francha Davis reported that the committee would like to focus this year on Truancy and county efforts. They would also like to focus on parental involvement in DJS court involved cases as the issue was brought up by Judge Bernard at our meeting with the Juvenile Judges last April.
- D. Speakers for upcoming meetings – at the executive committee meeting the following ideas were brought up for speakers. Secretary Abed – head of Department of Juvenile Services to talk about the effects of legislation enacted that would have juvenile facilities house juveniles who are charged as adults. Maryland State Department of Education – to discuss changes in vocational training for long term juvenile facilities. County Councilmember who is in charge of education – to put pressure on the school system to relax entry into vocational programs at schools. An advocate in the criminal justice system to give us a presentation on best practices/trending topic. And, an expert on trauma informed care to discuss new findings and strategies for understanding youth who have suffered trauma and come in the juvenile justice system.
- E. Carlean Ponder (Chair) brought up that she would like to have September's meeting be about best practices for youth involved with Department of Juvenile Services and would like to have speakers from within the Commission that have expertise. Margi Josh, guest from Juvenile Justice Monitoring unit brought up that Kara Aanenson, Director of the Just Kids Campaign would be an excellent addition to the panel on best practices.
- F. For upcoming meetings Commission members would like to have Secretary Abed, Department of Juvenile Services speak in October, Brian Frosh, Attorney General, Delegate Kathleen Dumais and Senator Jamie Raskin speak at the November meeting. And at the January meeting they would like to have the Maryland State Department of Education speak regarding the implementation of vocational programs. They would also like to have county council members Marc Elrich and Craig Rice to speak. And Elaine Bonner Tompkins who is from the Office of Legislative Oversight to speak on "Prison to Pipeline", Shay Bilichik's name was also brought up as he recently had a meeting with the Juvenile Judges and Uma Aluwalia to discuss a program for Co-Committed kids.

IV. **Adjourn** – meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm